

**T.K.O:**  
The Kevin Opinion

**Bullying is Child's Play... Even for Adults**



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Sports Editor

"Boys will be boys." Judging by the controversy in the Miami Dolphins' organization, it seems that the old saying doesn't only apply to boys.

The National Football League (NFL) has been conducting an investigation in which veteran Richie Incognito has been accused of harassing teammate Jonathan Martin. However, in sports and in other aspects of life, neither verbal nor physical abuse is welcome.

Incognito claims that "[his] actions came out of love. People don't know how Jon and [him] communicate to one another," according to an article by NBC Miami. However, athletes like himself don't seem to understand the flaws in their reasoning. In no way can bullying come from love, and healthy communication doesn't bloom from verbal abuse. Real teammates are there for support, and the fact that a teammate could be hurt due to another teammate's words and actions speaks volumes about the dynamics amongst the team.

Furthermore, athletes tend to claim that the targets of hazing don't appear to be fazed by the "pranks." However, it's typical for victims to hide signs of being bothered to avoid further harassment. In the case of sports, rookies may even feel less tempted to speak up because they are trying to prove themselves as people who belong in the "big leagues".

Incognito's behavior is unacceptable for obvious reasons, but it leads one to ask about the impact this has on young viewers. Professionals have a responsibility to act as role models. High school students who find out that an idol of theirs is bullying others, may consider it acceptable as well.

Call it what you will: pranks, jokes or tomfoolery. It's ultimately bullying and someone always gets hurt. Since grade school, we've been taught that bullying is wrong. Explain to me why bullying is suddenly accepted as an adult.

## Girls' Water Polo Stroking Their Way into Preseason



MOOR photo by YIBEI LIU

**A BRIGHT TURNAROUND** The Lady Moors, in contrast to last year's unavailing season, aim to redeem themselves with their win against the Pioneer Titans on Nov. 26.

**WESLEY TSAI**  
Staff Writer

As winter makes its way into the year, the girls water polo tried their way into preseason. With the Moors ending in a positive note, the moors are determined to practice so they can be prepared for the upcoming season.

With last year's team comprised of mostly seniors, Head Coach Adrian Lopez will have to prepare the returners and the un-

derclassmen to get them ready for preseason. Training is essential for water polo; The girls, along with Lopez, plan on working on the small things to improve for the season.

"The girls were senior heavy last year with skills in the offense field. This year I have all underclassmen, with the team comprised of sophomores and one senior. The sophomores were role players last year and now they will have to be the first option for the primary

score, thus getting a bigger role and I'm sure they're up to the task," Lopez said.

Practicing swimming is essential and swimming drills in polo include: extremely high elbows, fast strokes, shorter pulls, heads-up freestyle, heads-up freestyle with a ball and heads-up freestyle while treading. Dry-land practices include: lunges, squats, wall sits, box jumps and basic jumps.

"Last year was one of our record years, but I

don't feel like it'll be the same because it's always going to be different. But I feel like we will be successful because all the girls are really dedicated and put a lot of time and effort into practices," junior goalkeeper Macy Chung said.

The Moors played their first preseason game against the Pioneer Titans with a score of 23-8. The girls strive to practice diligently this year with only seven to nine players on the varsity squad. Some will have to

ironman it, which means playing throughout the game, emphasizing the importance of stamina. With seven players on the court, only two will sub in for other field players, meaning practices will heavily focus on stamina training.

"All the girls in water polo are currently going to practice every single day to train [on individual talent thus allowing the team to piece it together] for our preseason games," senior wing Michelle Guerra said.

## Relentless Road to Becoming a Professional Athletes

**SIMEON LAM**  
Staff Writer

Looking at professional athletes today, it's interesting to see each athlete's unique story about their transition from high school to a professional athlete. However, they all share the same road by which they got there.

Typically, an athlete starts that process during their high school years. High school athletics is probably the beginning stage of becoming a professional athlete. However, these years are also the most vital years for those who plan to go to the next level. To become a college athlete, most high school-

ers need to earn an athletic scholarship, which is given to a select few. These scholarships are usually given to those recruited players who scouts see potential in. This is why an athlete's performance throughout their high school career is important. Unfortunately, the chances of becoming a college athlete are unlikely. In fact, according to ScholarshipStats, only 7.6 percent of high school athletes actually end up becoming college athletes. Though these chances are mild, there is still a chance for those who have the right skill set. Another important factor in high school is academics.

"To become a college

athlete, students must first meet very important academic requirements," said Athletics Director Gerald De Santis. "They must also be outstanding, exceptional athletes who are willing to work hard and put in many hours."

The next step in becoming a professional athlete is college athletics. Compared to high school, college athletics include more effort, pressure and stiffer and tougher competition. This stage is also very important as this is their chance to show professional scouts and coaches their potential. However, the road to becoming a pro only gets tougher in college. For

those who think that the chances of becoming a college athlete are slim, then they will be shocked about the statistics of going pro. According to The Business Insider, the chances of a college athlete becoming a professional athlete are as slim as 2 percent. For those who are talented enough, the big stage is next.

Compared to college, professional athletics offers much more fame, money, and pressure, as well as the best athletes. The road doesn't stop here, though. There are far too many ways that an athlete can go pro only to fail soon after. It is vital to stay consistent in skill and work

ethic in order to stay a professional athlete. Lastly, becoming a pro athlete's life has its up and downs.

"[Becoming] a professional athlete has its benefits both financially and academically and gives many connections for the future," said De Santis. "But the downsides are wear and tear on the body, time commitment, and injuries." Overall, there isn't a very large chance for high school athletes to join professional leagues. For the slim minority who do, they know how tough of a journey it takes to get to the next level.

MOOR graphic by SYDNEY LI

## Varsity Girls' Soccer Team Confident for Upcoming Preseason

**ANHAYTE GUAJRDO**  
Staff Writer

As the temperature begins to decline and the sun begins to set sooner, the varsity girls' soccer team once again begins their vigorous practices in order to qualify for the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) postseason matches. After placing second in league last season with a record of 5-3, the team is very optimistic this season to place first in Almont League to defeat their biggest rival, the Bell Gardens Lancers.

"We have been preparing for a good season. We

are always trying to improve on our tactics; since varsity made it to CIF last year, we are practicing to make it to higher rounds and putting our full effort into winning," junior midfielder

**"We are very united, no one is singled out and we try to have a positive atmosphere,"**

**- Michelle Badillo**

Renata Rodriguez said.

The team practices on a daily regimen from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., conditioning and working on new tactical moves in or-

der to prepare for their upcoming preseason games.

Although this year the team is incredibly united, according to Head Coach Armando Gutierrez, the girls must continue to work on their communication on the field. During practice, they are required to speak to each other at all times in order to remember to communicate during a game.

"This is going to be a great year for us. We are very united, no one is singled out and we try to have a positive atmosphere in order for no one to feel neglected or put down," senior captain Michelle Badillo said.



MOOR photo by SHANNON KHA

**KICKING WITH PRECISION** In preparation for the varsity girls' soccer team's second game of the season against the San Marino Titans, left defense player Arlene Mendez dashes for the ball in order to make a distant goal during the team's Saturday practice.